

Staying Safe

MAG Distributes Domestic Violence Safety Plan

Kathy Pride remembers the hiss. "He would lower his voice and make kind of a hissing sound," says the Phoenix mother, a former abuse victim. "Then he would just start on me. I finally learned that when I'd hear the hiss, I needed to pick up my son and walk out the door."

Like thousands of other women in the Valley, Kathy was trapped in a relationship that included emotional and physical abuse.

In an effort to help domestic violence victims learn more about staying safe when living with or leaving an abuser, the Maricopa Association of Governments last month began distributing a "Domestic Violence Safety Plan" throughout the Valley.

The brochure includes tips such as planning escape routes, staying out of rooms with no exit, and teaching children a code word that lets them know to call 9-1-1. It also contains a checklist of things to take when leaving an abuser, such as identification,



Westside Food Bank Volunteer Barbara Bender places a copy of the Domestic Violence Safety Plan in an emergency food box for distribution

children's birth certificates, medical records, spare keys, money and legal documents.

Kathy believes the plan will save victims countless hours of frustration. "I was always making plans in my head on how to leave," she says. "How wonderful it would have been to be able to slip something in my purse that I could read and use as a guide. I had to do it on my own."

MAG began distributing the plan in October, the nation's

designated Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "We wanted to mark the occasion by doing more than citing figures and statistics," says Cody Williams, a Phoenix councilman who chairs MAG's Domestic Violence subcommittee. "We wanted to do something that could actually help victims. We believe the plan offers some very good, succinct information about protecting yourself and your kids in abusive situations."



Phoenix Councilmember Cody Williams

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Tempe Mayor
Neil Giuliano

From the Chair

If you come to me and say, "Let us sit down and take counsel together; and if we differ from one another, understand why it is that we differ from one another; just what the points at issue are," we will presently find that we are not so far apart after all, that the points on which we differ are few and the points on which we agree are many, and that if we only have the patience and the candor and the desire to get together, we will get together. -Woodrow Wilson

President Wilson was on to something, and it is as pertinent to us today as it was back when he was working to build the organization that eventually became the United Nations.

Our individual responsibilities require us to represent our separate constituencies, and yet, as members of an association of governments, we also have an obligation to serve the interests of all the constituencies, collectively. To do so effectively, we must have patience, desire and candor in


quantities beyond what has been required in the past.

I am firmly committed to ensuring a process that allows for us to forthrightly deal with the concerns and issues before us. And they are issues and concerns that we must address.

First of all, transportation. With the fast-approaching implementation of TEA-21, there is potentially several hundred million federal dollars at stake. How can we best help the millions of commuters, our constituents, who must attempt to travel from one part of the region to the other? Our constituents want us to cooperate, collaborate and communicate.

Putting regionalism ahead of individualism will also benefit all MAG members as we work to update the Regional Aviation System Plan. From the protection of Luke Air Force Base, to the re-use of Williams-Gateway, to the future of Sky Harbor International, we must coordinate our efforts to create a comprehensive, integrated plan that makes sense and works for travelers flying in and out of the region, now and in the future.

From air quality concerns, to solid waste management plans, to our role as the human services planning agency for the region, MAG has been given a unique role that brings with it unique responsibilities.

We must find it within ourselves to work together in the spirit of cooperation. The alternative only serves to further the cause of those who do not believe in MAG. 

REGIONAL council members

- ◆ Mayor Neil G. Giuliano
Tempe, Chair
- ◆ Mayor Skip Rimsza
Phoenix, Vice-Chair
- ◆ Mayor John Keegan
Peoria, Treasurer
- Mayor Thomas Morales
Avondale
- Mayor Dusty Hull
Buckeye
- Mayor Hugh Stevens
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- Mayor Tom Augherton
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- ◆ Mayor Jay Tibshraeny
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- Mayor Maggie Reese
El Mirage
- Mayor Sharon Morgan
Fountain Hills
- Mayor Chuck Turner
Gila Bend
- Governor Mary Thomas
Gila River Indian Community
- Mayor Cynthia Dunham
Gilbert
- ◆ Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs
Glendale
- Mayor William Arnold
Goodyear
- Mayor Frances Osuna
Guadalupe
- Mayor Colin Barleycorn
Litchfield Park
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Paradise Valley
- Mayor Mark Schnepf
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- Mayor Sam Kathryn Campana
Scottsdale
- Mayor Joan Shafer
Surprise
- Mayor Adolfo Gamez
Tolleson
- Mayor Dallas Gant
Wickenburg
- Mayor Donald J. Needham
Youngtown
- F. Rockne Arnett
Arizona Department of Transportation
- Charles Coughlin
Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
- ◆ Executive Committee Members



MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments addressing the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, 254-6300.

Neil G. Giuliano
Mayor of Tempe
Chairman

James M. Bourey
Executive Director

Kelly Taft
Editor

Gordon Tyus
Graphic Design



“Urban Atlas” Provides Unique Look at Maricopa Region

The first thing that hits you when you open the pages of MAG's new Phoenix Metropolitan Area Urban Atlas is the impressive amount of information it contains. Read further, and you're equally amazed by the quality of the information, much of which is reflected in bright, colorful, easy-to-understand maps and graphs.


The user-friendly document includes information about the region, ranging from physical features and land use to employment statistics and property tax rates. There's even a map comparing school standardized achievement scores.

Each page is accompanied by written text explaining the information displayed and providing additional analysis.

For MAG Transportation Manager Terry Johnson, the project was a labor of love. “The Urban Atlas represents ten years of effort in research, compilation, and analysis of numerous databases,” says Johnson, who also traveled the region taking the beautiful full-color photographs contained in the atlas. “We wanted this document to be something people would find useful, beneficial and easily interpreted.”

The atlas covers Maricopa County, which experienced the largest net increase of population between 1990 and 1997 of any county in the United States.

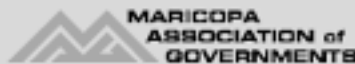
“This document highlights the dynamics of the region with maps of evolving patterns and trends covering half a century,” says Harry Wolfe, MAG Socioeconomic Program Manager. “The maps cover the urban core of the region where development has occurred or is expected to occur.”

The atlas is divided into six sections: physical features, the built environment, demographics, employment, government and urban services. It is offered for sale through MAG for \$49.95. 

Contact Harry Wolfe, 254-6300, for more information.

URBAN ATLAS

PHOENIX METROPOLITAN AREA



Valley Vision 2025

alternatives, choices, solutions

Valley Vision 2025 Now Seeking Input

Whether you're a working mom, firefighter, Boy Scout, or senior citizen, your vision is important to members of the Valley Vision 2025 Committee. So don't be surprised if a representative from one of 31 citizen-based "collaborative" groups around the Valley calls to arrange a visit with your club or office, asking your thoughts on what the Valley should look like in the year 2025.

The collaborative groups were formed as part of the Valley Vision 2025 effort to reach out to as many Valley citizens as possible, and talk to them about their vision for the future. The

"collaboratives" will be asking citizens their opinions on issues which have been identified by the Valley Vision 2025 Committee as crucial to the future of the Valley. The collaboratives will report their findings to the 82-member Valley Vision 2025 Committee by the beginning of next year. The collaborative groups represent local governments, Indian communities and organizations throughout the Valley.

The collaboratives have begun the process of reaching out into their communities for input. Instead of relying solely on public meetings to shape a vision report, the

collaboratives plan to seek additional information through personal visits, direct-mail surveys and telephone interviews.

"Each collaborative is identifying major stakeholders in their area from whom they will seek input," says Diane McCarthy, Valley Vision 2025 Co-Chair. "Stakeholders may include churches, youth groups, senior centers, volunteer associations or civic organizations."

McCarthy says that by working with collaboratives to proactively go out into each community, the Vision Committee hopes to reach members of the public who may be too busy to attend more traditional public forums.

"We want to engage anyone and everyone who has a stake in the future of this Valley in this effort," says George Young, also a Valley Vision 2025 Co-Chair. "Our goal is to make this a truly participatory process."

Individuals who are not contacted but who want to participate are encouraged to contact MAG for information about the collaborative group in their area. Or they can provide input by calling the Vision Hotline at 452-5080, or by logging on to MAG's Web site at www.mag.maricopa.gov.

Contact Leslie Dornfeld or Kelly Taft, 254-6300 for more information.

Collaborative Groups Formed

GROUP NAME	CONTACT PERSON(S)	GROUP NAME	CONTACT PERSON(S)
ADOT	Jay Klagge	Litchfield Park	Mike Cartsonis
Avondale	Carlin Holley	Maricopa County	Kevin Tyne
Buckeye	Annete Napolitano	Mesa	Frank Mizner
Carefree	Jonathan Pearson	Paradise Valley	Neal Pascoe
Cave Creek	Kerry Dudek	Peoria	Debra Stark
Chandler	Doug Ballard	Phoenix	Lisa Takata; Joy Mee
El Mirage	Rosalinda Herrera	Queen Creek	Cynthia Seelhammer
Fountain Hills	Gary Jepson	RPTA	Ken Driggs
Gila Bend	Cari Stephani	Salt River Pima	
Gila River		Indian Community	Gabriel D'Luzansky
Indian Community	Loyd Notah	Scottsdale	Joni Meade;
Gilbert	Mayor Cynthia Dunham		Peggy Carpenter;
			Jeff Kulaga
Glendale	Amy Rudibaugh;	Surprise	Mike Branham
	Susan Harris	Tempe	Randy Hulburt
Goodyear	Doug Sanders;	Tolleson	Reyes Medrano
	Harvey Kraus	Wickenburg	David Siegel
Guadalupe	Enrique Sema	Youngtown	Lloyce Robinson

MAG Continues Fair Share Efforts

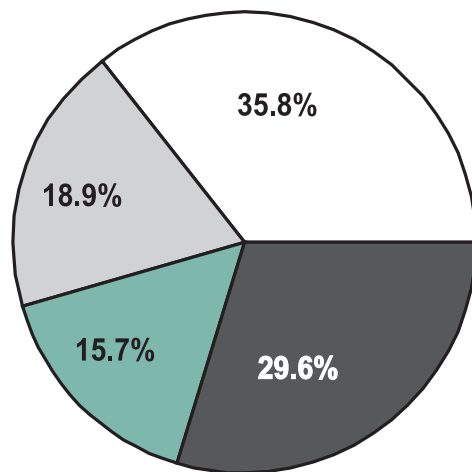
With hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, the Maricopa Association of Governments has taken the lead in an effort to ensure that the citizens of the Maricopa Region receive a fair share of increased federal transportation funding.

Under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), Arizona will receive a 57-percent increase in federal transportation funds. Over a five-year period, there will be as much as \$1.4 billion dollars in additional transportation revenue to distribute. Determining how that money is distributed has become the subject of intense negotiations between the regions and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

“For years, the citizens of the Maricopa Region have been paying state and federal gas taxes to the United States government, at a rate unmatched elsewhere in the state,” says James Bourey, MAG Executive Director. “Now that more of this money is coming back to our state, it seems only appropriate that the citizens of this region receive a fair share of this increase. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that highway dollars returned to the state by the federal government are allocated equitably.”

Under the “fair share” concept, regions would receive one dollar back for every dollar collected through state and federal gas taxes. Without regional commitment to these efforts, Bourey says, Maricopa County citizens stand to

Allocation of ADOT Discretionary Funds Based on Fair Share



□ Maricopa County ■ Balance of State
 ■ Pima County ■ Statewide Retention

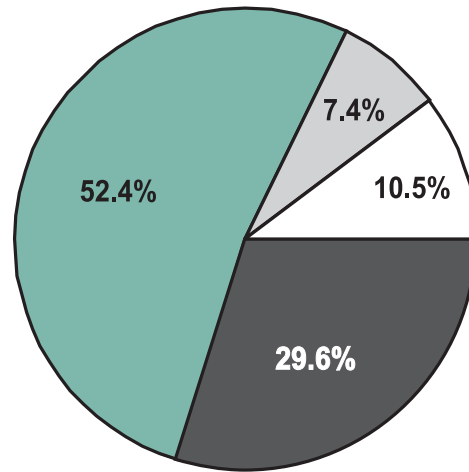
lose hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five years in possible transportation funding.

To ensure that the region receives the most equitable distribution possible, the Maricopa Association of Governments has met repeatedly with other councils of government within the state and with the Arizona Department of Transportation. MAG staff has spent many hours analyzing what percentage of ADOT discretionary funds equates to a fair share, and the findings have helped focus discussions and other fair share efforts.

“These discussions have resulted in some very positive progress,” says Bourey.


One agreement includes the implementation of a fundamental change in the process for allocating available state and federal money for transportation. Under the new procedures,

Average Annual Allocation in ADOT 1999-2003 Program



ADOT and MAG will work together, along with the other regions of the state, to develop an appropriate allocation of transportation funding.

Another change involves a dual role in which ADOT and MAG will cooperatively plan projects for which available transportation funding will be used. Yet another change involves establishing stakeholder processes in each region to address transportation challenges.

Bourey says modifications will also be made in the development of system criteria used to distribute state and federal funds to regions. This criteria will include such factors as traffic congestion, air quality, growth, maintenance and the number of vehicle miles traveled in a region. 

Contact James M. Bourey, 254-6300, for more information.



The Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) has provided additional funding for Arizona.

Papago Salado Exemplifies Public/Private Partnership



“Papago” and “Salado” are familiar words to most Valley residents. Papago Park, known for its unique red rock formations, is a favorite weekend spot for many families. Rio Salado, Spanish for “Salt River,” refers to an area marked for some of the most ambitious development ever seen in this region.

Small wonder, then, that when the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe formed an association to preserve, enhance and promote these remarkable areas, they named it “Papago Salado.” The association has created a sense of place for a vicinity rich in archaeology, culture and natural features.

The efforts were rewarded in June, 1998, when the Maricopa Association of Governments chose Papago Salado as one of two recipients for its Public-Private Partnership

Award during its first annual Desert Peaks Awards.

Papago Salado was formed six years ago to promote tourism and economic development in the area between Oak Street and




University Drive from 44th Street to 68th Street/College Avenue. The association includes representatives from the Arizona Historical Society, Desert Botanical Garden, Papago Park Center, Pueblo Grande Museum, Salt River Project, Stockyards and the Phoenix Zoo.



This is the second in a series of articles spotlighting and honoring the 1998 MAG Desert Peaks Awards.

One of the association’s long-term projects is the Papago Trail. This multi-use pathway will link the area’s many attractions, enabling people to walk or bicycle to all of them in a pleasant, safe environment.

The association also created the “Getting There With Heritage” program. Designed to teach children about history and culture, the program showcases 13 historic and prehistoric sites, and may soon be put on the Internet.

To increase tourism, the association completed its first two-year plan to market cultural heritage tourism. The plan will leverage private dollars to help market the region. 

Contact Audrey Evans, 254-6300, for information about MAG’s Desert Peaks Awards.

AKS

Awards

Excellence in

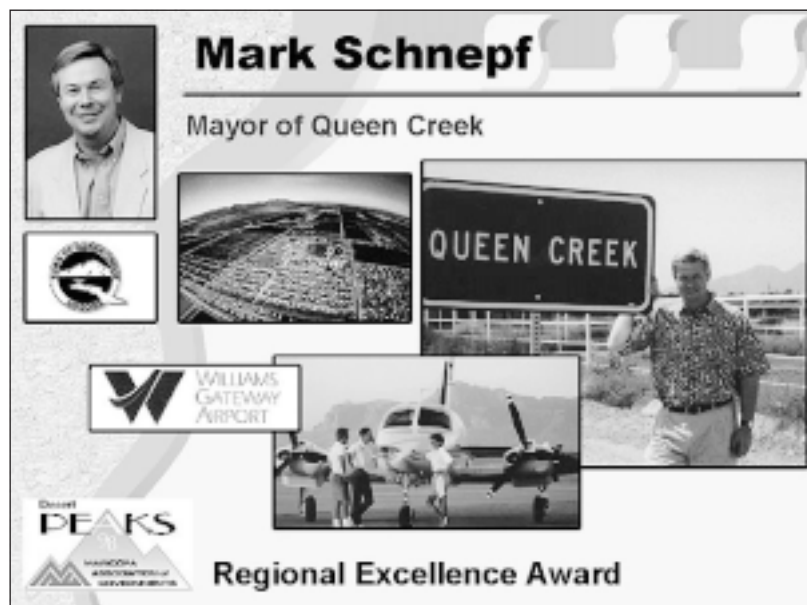
Regional
Administration

98

Maricopa Association of Governments

In a series of articles
honoring the winners of
Desert Peaks Awards.

Mayor Mark Schnepf Wins Award for Regional Excellence



Regional excellence is a lofty status, but for Mayor Mark Schnepf of Queen Creek, one that seems especially appropriate. At MAG's inaugural Desert Peaks Awards ceremony in June 1998, Mayor Schnepf walked off with the prestigious Regional Excellence Award for his outstanding ability to solve regional problems with innovative solutions.

For example, the southeast valley mayor helped forge relationships that turned the closing of the Williams Air Force Base from a local economic problem into a national model for success. He was active in the development of a wastewater treatment effort which joined the forces of Queen Creek, Gilbert and Mesa in protecting the area's groundwater supply. And he has been a driving force behind the designation of the Santan Mountains as a regional park, working with the federal


government and Pinal and Maricopa Counties to create a natural, scenic recreation area.

"Mayor Schnepf is living proof of the benefits to be obtained through regional cooperation," says James Bourey, Executive Director for the Maricopa Association of Governments. "He has worked to improve not only his own community, but the entire Southeast Valley."

Recognizing the need for future leaders and believing that leadership is instilled in individuals, Mayor Schnepf initiated the Queen Creek Citizen Leadership Institute. The five-year-old program promotes civic involvement and leadership through exposure to local and regional issues. The program received a 1997 Governor's Rural Development Award for leadership development. The mayor has also twice served on

committees aimed at establishing new landfill sites for the region.

"There is no limit on what can be attained when communities choose to work together," says Mayor Schnepf, who is no stranger to awards. In 1997 he was named American Hometown Leader by the National Center for Small Communities. But he calls MAG's Regional Excellence Award especially gratifying.

"This was a real honor for me, because it represents the difference we can make not only in our own communities, but in the Valley we all share," he says. "It's important to recognize that sometimes we must look beyond the boundaries of our cities to protect that which lies within their borders." 

Contact Audrey Evans, 254-6300, for more information about MAG's Desert Peaks Awards.



Mark Schnepf,
Mayor of Queen
Creek, is the
Winner of the
Regional
Excellence Award

Making MAGIC Information Center

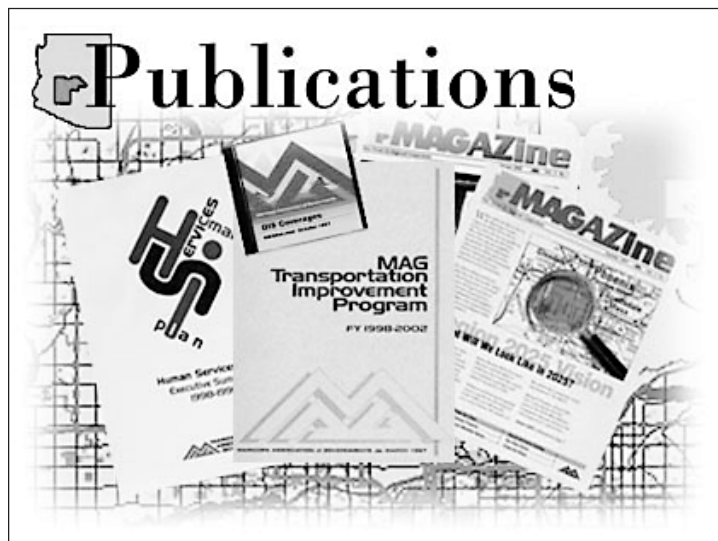
Maricopa Association of Governments



Pull some geographic boundaries out of your hat, add some development data, reach up your sleeve for a few socioeconomic projections, wave your computer wand — and voila! — you’re making magic. Or, more precisely, “MAGIC” — the acronym for the new Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center.

MAGIC is the association’s latest resource for tracking and maintaining important regional databases. MAG compiles and analyzes important geographic, statistical and socioeconomic data — often crucial to the regional planning and policy-making process. Through MAGIC, the information is available for public and commercial use. As an additional service, MAG can provide customized formatting and analysis of the information for a fee.

Many maps, database files, publications and GIS coverages are available in the latest MAGIC brochure




Available information includes MAG Geographic Boundaries, 1995 Special Census data, General Plan Land Use, 1995 Land Use, Magnet Street Centerlines, Residential Completions, Socioeconomic Projections, Employment Locations, Development Areas, Urban Atlas and MAG Desert Spaces Plan.

“This data is useful to a wide variety of individuals and agencies,” says Rita Walton, MAG’s Policy and Information Manager. “Knowing where people work or where the most houses are being

built may help a developer decide where to locate his next residential project. Finding out where the seasonal population is located may drive a city’s decision on where to locate human services facilities. Or knowing where there are preserved desert spaces may help someone moving into the Valley

choose where to live.”

The databases are provided through reports, publications, CD ROM and computer disk. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$600.00, based on the type of information requested. 

Contact Rita Walton, 254-6300, for more information.

Information Available Includes:

URBAN ATLAS

MAG
GEOGRAPHIC
BOUNDARIES

1995 SPECIAL
CENSUS

GENERAL PLAN
LAND USE

1995 LAND USE

MAGNET STREET
CENTERLINES

RESIDENTIAL
COMPLETIONS

SOCIOECONOMIC
PROJECTIONS

EMPLOYMENT
LOCATIONS

DEVELOPMENT
AREAS

MAG DESERT
SPACES PLAN

LONG RANGE
TRANSPORTATION
PLAN

HUMAN
SERVICES PLAN

MAG
SPECIFICATIONS
AND DETAILS

POPULATION
DENSITY

TRAFFIC
COUNTS

and much more!

Move Over, George Jetson

Videoconferencing, Telecommuting Here Now

When animated character and space-age father George Jetson wants to spend more time with Jane, Judy, Elroy or even his dog Astro, he simply flips a switch and says to his boss via television circuit, "Mr. Spacely, I think I'll work at home today."



While we may be a few years away from floating cities and Rosie the Robot, the age of conducting business via videoconferencing and telecommuting programs is here — thanks to the recent acceleration of a \$1.5 million MAG Teleconferencing and Telecommuting Program.

The money, \$1.3 million of which is available for use immediately, will be used to hire a consultant to design the system, to purchase equipment, and to implement a telecommuting project in conjunction with the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA).

"The ultimate goal of this program is to use telecommunication efforts to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and increase participation in the decision-making process," says Rita Walton, MAG Policy and Information Manager. "In addition, it will enable workers to spend more time with their


families, rather than on the road."

Walton says a key component of the program will be a videoconferencing project. MAG plans to install teleconferencing sites at each of MAG's member agencies.

"Videoconferencing would allow us to increase participation from both MAG members and the public, especially those who live on the outskirts of the region," she says. "It would also help us reach under-served populations who may not be able to travel downtown for MAG meetings, but who could go to a site closer to home."



Having teleconferencing sites at each location would also enable members to communicate directly with one another, agency-to-agency, Walton says. Such access could reduce regional vehicle trips, improve air quality, save time, and enhance communications between cities and other regional stakeholders.

Who knows? The next time George Jetson logs on to his "Referential Universal Digital Indexer," he may want to hook up with MAG and describe what *he* sees as the future of the region. 

Contact Rita Walton, 254-6300, for more information.




MAG Gives Buses Big Boost

It was a funding level that exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. Valley transit officials were both stunned and elated by a substantial increase in MAG funding that swelled coffers earmarked for transit vehicles by an additional \$14.6 million for fiscal year 1998.

"This is substantial," says Ken Driggs, Executive Director of the Regional Public Transportation Authority. "This money enabled us to accelerate the purchase of buses that would otherwise have taken us three years to buy. You can't help but call that a big boost for transit in the Valley."

The Maricopa Association of Governments committed the extra money to the bus program after MAG itself received \$55 million worth of federal funds through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Approximately half of those dollars were designated as Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, which by law must go to reducing congestion and/or improving air quality. Buses and other transit programs meet that definition.

"The increase in TEA-21 funding allowed us to accelerate projects that were originally programmed over a three-year period," says James Bourey, MAG's Executive Director. "We were delighted that this extra money could be used for the immediate purchase of transit vehicles."

What's even better, adds Bourey, is that the increased funding will continue to be received over the next five years, which could substantially boost the amount of federal funds going to transit on a yearly basis. 

Contact Paul Ward, 254-6300, for more information.

Look for the Domestic Violence Safety Brochure at many locations throughout the Region.

Domestic Violence Safety Plan

Do You Feel Safe at home?



You can.

For Local Shelter Call:
263-8900 or 1-800-799-7739
National Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)



Staying Safe continued from page 2


The front cover of the brochure lists a new local hotline number that, for the first time, can immediately identify available shelter space. The number is 263-8900 or 1-800-799-7739.

When MAG presented the safety plan idea to shelter providers and other domestic violence experts, the response was overwhelming.

“They were instantly on board,” says Carol Kratz, MAG Human Services Manager. “Suddenly, everyone was making calls and pulling together this huge group of incredible partners. Within weeks we were receiving calls from every corner from people telling us they were willing to help distribute this plan.”

With funding provided by American Express and Valley of

the Sun United Way, MAG was able to print 150,000 copies of the plan. The Department of Economic Security (DES) volunteered to provide 50,000 copies in Spanish.

The domestic violence safety plan is being distributed through DES offices, Maricopa County food banks, five City of Phoenix Family Services Centers, 18 senior centers, 13 community action programs, Creighton School District, Norwest Bank, Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Maricopa Medical Center, Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, six community colleges and Arizona State University. The plan is also available on MAG’s Web site at www.mag.maricopa.gov, or by calling 254-6300. 

Contact Carol Kratz, 254-6300, for more information.

Domestic Violence Safety Checklist: What You Will Need When Preparing to Leave

Identification

- ☐ Driver’s License
- ☐ Children’s Birth Certificates
- ☐ Your Birth Certificate
- ☐ Social Security Card
- ☐ Welfare Identification
- ☐ Medical Insurance Cards

Legal Documents

- ☐ Lease, Rental Agreement, or Deed to House/Properties
- ☐ Car Registration & Insurance Papers
- ☐ Health and Life Insurance Papers
- ☐ Medical Records for You and Your Children
- ☐ School and Shot Records
- ☐ Work Permits/Green Card or Visa
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ Divorce Papers
- ☐ Custody Papers

Money

- ☐ Money and/or Credit Cards
- ☐ ATM Card
- ☐ Savings Books
- ☐ Checkbook

Other Things

- ☐ Keys to House, Car and Safety Deposit Boxes
- ☐ Medications for You and Your Children
- ☐ Small Objects to Sell
- ☐ Jewelry
- ☐ Address Book
- ☐ Phone Card
- ☐ Pictures of You, Children and Your Abuser
- ☐ Children’s Small Toys
- ☐ Toiletries/Diapers
- ☐ Clothing

Things To Do:

1. Open a savings account and/or get a credit card in your own name. Get your own post office box so that you can receive mail and checks.
2. Plan who to stay with or who would be able to lend you money during a crisis.
3. Contact the hotline or any shelter for help in safety planning and keep the hotline number with you at all times.

For Local Shelter Call:
263-8900 or 1-800-799-7739

National Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Tackling Census Challenges

From a court fight over statistical sampling, to problems with address lists for Census form mail-outs — the U.S. Census Bureau is scrambling to resolve a checklist of challenges as it moves toward the year 2000 census.

One of the fiercest battles will soon move within the walls of the nation's highest court. In late November, oral arguments are set to begin in the Supreme Court over the use of statistical sampling, a methodology similar to polling, to develop a more accurate population estimate and help reduce census undercounts. The Census Bureau took its case to the high court after the Appeals Court rejected efforts to use statistical sampling methods in Census 2000 to produce numbers to be used for congressional reapportionment.

Proponents believe statistical sampling is a necessary tool in ensuring accurate census counts. Immediately after the 1990 census, a study found that 8.4 million Americans were undercounted — 89,000 of them in Arizona alone. More than half of those were children, and a disproportionate number were minorities.

"What's at stake in this case is the ability of the Census Bureau to use the most modern scientific methods to ensure an accurate and fair census," says James Bourey, MAG Executive Director and a member of the Census Advisory Committee.


Undercounting can cost states congressional seats, which are based on population, as well as millions of dollars in federal and state funds allocated to cities, counties and states.

"For each resident who goes uncounted in Census 2000, we estimate that the cities of our region will lose about \$10,000," says Bourey.

As the statistical sampling debate rages on, the Census Bureau faces additional problems surrounding the Bureau's efforts to update local addresses using information provided by the U.S. Postal Service.

"The idea was to use postal records to get up-to-date address records," says Bourey. "After all, almost everyone gets mail. But when the records were sent, cities found tens of thousands of addresses missing. MAG staff is doing what it can to find out why this effort has experienced so many problems."

Bourey, who recently sent a frankly-worded letter to the Census Bureau outlining concerns over these and other census problems, hopes the issues will be resolved soon.

"I think they've received our wake-up call," he says. "While I am hopeful the Bureau will be responsive, it is important that cities and regions remain diligent in communicating their needs." 

Contact Harry Wolfe, 254-6300, for more information.

Scholarship Awarded to MAG Employee




DeDe Gaisthea

MAG employee DeDe Gaisthea has been selected to receive a \$500 continuing education scholarship from the Arizona Women's Education and Employment, Inc. (AWEE).

Gaisthea, who works as a mail copy clerk for the Maricopa Association of Governments, received the award during a Scholarship Presentation at the ATHENA 1998 Award Luncheon. The ATHENA awards ceremony recognizes top professional women in Arizona. The group helps celebrate the event each year by providing the opportunity for another woman to reach her educational goals through the AWEE scholarship.

"I was really surprised and honored that AWEE selected me for this award," says Gaisthea. "I'm sure there were many others they could have considered."

AWEE Executive Director Marie Sullivan says Gaisthea was chosen as the scholarship recipient because of her commitment to her future. "We were impressed because DeDe reflected not just a positive attitude about her future but a determination to meet her goal and attain success," says Sullivan.

Gaisthea says she will attend classes after work and on weekends. She plans to take courses in the field of either psychology or social work. 

November		December		January	
3 rd	10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee	1 st	1:00 PM, Census Bureau Workshop	6 th	11:00 AM, Valley Vision 2025 Committee
4 th	9:00 AM, Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee	2 nd	11:00 AM, Valley Vision 2025 Public Utilities/Governance Subcommittee and Urban Form Subcommittee	21 st	12:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee/Human Services Technical Committee Annual Meeting
4 th	11:00 AM, Valley Vision 2025 Committee and Subcommittees	2 nd	1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee	28 th	10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee
4 th	1:30 PM, Standard Specifications and Details Committee	3 rd	1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	<div>The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. Please call 254-6300 for confirmation.</div> <div>All meetings, unless indicated otherwise will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Norwest Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue. Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation.</div>	
4 th	5:00 PM, Regional Council	8 th	10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee		
5 th	9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee	8 th	1:30 PM, Street Committee		
5 th	1:30 PM, Population Technical Advisory Committee	9 th	9:00 AM, Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee		
10 th	1:30 PM, Street Committee	9 th	5:00 PM, Regional Council		
12 th	1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	10 th	12:00 PM, RPTA Board Meeting		
17 th	1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force	15 th	10:00 AM, Regional Bicycle Task Force		
18 th	10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee	16 th	10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee		
18 th	12:00 PM, Management Committee	17 th	12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee		
19 th	10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group	24 th	10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee		
19 th	12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee				
19 th	12:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee				
25 th	9:00 AM, Regional Council Transportation Subcommittee				
25 th	2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee				
26 th	10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee				

Happy Holidays